



ELIMMISSIONS

SMALL GROUP LEADERS NOTES: Mission and the Story of God – interlude

Silence. How do you cope when it seems like God is silent? The reality of life with God is that there are many times when we have no clue what God is doing. We keep following him. We keep searching for his activity, but sometimes it is hard to see it. What are we to make of these times? How is our faith strengthened?

RECAP: Last week we looked at Act 3 of the Story of God – Promise – what were some of the things that have stuck with you since then about this part of the story and how has it impacted your life this week?

THIS WEEK: Between Act 3 and Act 4 there is an interlude – The time between the last writings of the Old Testament and the appearance of Christ is known as the “intertestamental” (or “between the testaments”) period. Because there was no prophetic word from God during this time, some refer to it as the “400 silent years.”

INTERLUDE (SHARE OUT THE READING OF THIS STORY):

First the Babylonians, then the Persians, then the Greeks, and finally the Romans— for centuries, these empires had deported, exiled, minimized, and enslaved God’s people—and the Israelites’ God didn’t seem to do anything to stop them!

Would God answer? Would He rescue? After all . . .

- He promised Adam He would send one to make things right.
- He promised Noah He would never destroy the earth.
- He promised Abraham that his descendants, the people of Israel, would be blessed.
- He rescued their ancestors out of slavery in Egypt.
- He blessed them and gave them the land through Joshua.
- He promised David a son who would rule forever.
- He promised to rescue His people out of exile.

For more than 400 years they were waiting . . . longing . . . hoping. . . for God to rescue.

God’s people began looking for the Messiah, a man sent by God, to be their King. Over and over, their hopes would rise with a great political figure or some powerful revolutionary. But over and over the self-proclaimed, would-be messiahs failed. Over and over their hopes were dashed.

This was beginning to seem like a story in search of an ending. But God was still on His mission.

Observe: WHO IS GOD?

Reflect: WHAT HAS GOD DONE?

Discuss: WHO ARE WE?

Act: HOW DO WE GET TO LIVE?

RESPONSE: This week to end our time together we are going to take communion. Have someone in the group lead a time of preparation, then maybe some else lead as you take the bread and someone else you drink the juice.

Questions:

1. Describe time in your life when you have felt God was silent. How did you navigate your way through?
2. What did you learn about God and his ways during this season?
3. With the benefit of hindsight, how did you see God's mission working in your own life?
4. What was the outcome of this season?

Originally created by Saturate © 2017 Saturate. Some rights reserved. You may not use, remix, and build upon this work unless you attribute "saturatetheworld.com" and abide by terms found at: saturatetheworld.com/license.